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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Dawn Pavlik (Geneva-St. Edward) will compete this week at the Gateway Collegiate Conference tennis tournament.

Pavlik, a junior, will represent her school at the three-day tourney beginning Thursday (April 26) by vying for titles in No. 5 singles and No. 3 doubles, where she teams with junior Gina Andres (Mascoutah-Belleville Area CC).

Pavlik has compiled a 4-7 record in singles this spring, but the Pavlik-Andres doubles combination boasts Eastern's best record, 8-3, prompting pre-tournament optimism from EIU head coach Gail Richard.

"I'm expecting our No. 3 team to score points for us at the conference," Richard said. "I think they could win a match or two in the championship bracket and then sweep through and win the consolation. They could score as many points as the whole team scored last year" when EIU finished tied for ninth.

"Dawn and Gina are a really smooth team. Their record shows how well they work together and they never give up on a point," Richard added.

Although Pavlik's singles' record doesn't match her doubles' success, Richard said the junior has shown vast improvement in the more aggressive, serve-and-volley style of play which she has implemented.

"Dawn has really improved her ground strikes and has developed a nice volley game; she's really tough at the net," Richard continued. "When she gets up to the net, she almost always kills the next volley for a point."